

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJ: FOURTH SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING --
JULY 2, 1973

SUMMARY: FOURTH SCG MEETING FOCUSED ON PURPOSE AND FUNCTION OF US FORCES IN JAPAN AND ASIA, AND JAPANESE REPS PLACED PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON CONCERN THAT CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN US MIGHT RESULT IN WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES IN SUCH WAY AS TO CREATE REGIONAL INSTABILITY. JAPANESE INDICATED THEIR PREFERENCE FOR MAINTAINING LONG- TERM US PRESENCE IN ASIA, WHICH WOULD COMPRISE SEVENTH FLEET AND A " MOBILE TASK FORCE" COMPOSED OF AIR FORCE AND MARINE UNITS. IN SHORT TUN, GOJ CONSIDERS IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO REMOVE US GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA AND THAILAND. WHILE EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING PRESENCE, JAPANESE REPS INDICATED THEIR OPINION THAT SIZE OF US FORCES IN WESTERN PACIFIC/ EAST ASIA COULD BE REDUCED WITHOUT ADVERSE EFFECT. DISCUSSION RAISED NEW ISSUES FOR CONTINUATION IN SUBSEQUENT CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETINGS. END SUMMARY

1. ON JULY 2, 1973 FOURTH SECURITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEET-
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ING WAS HELD AT FONOFF WITH LT. GENERAL PURSLEY, MAJOR GENERAL SNOWDEN AND POLMIL COUNSELOR SCHMITZ PARTICIPATING FOR US, AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR GENERAL OKAWARA, DFAA DIRECTOR GENERAL KUBO, CHAIRMAN JOINT STAFF COUNCIL GENERAL NAKAMURA, JDA LIAISON COUNCIL TACHIBANA, AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU COUNSELOR SUMIYA FOR JAPANESE SIDE. BY PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT, SPRINGBOARD FOR DISCUSSION WAS KUBO PAPER PRESENTED AT LAST SECURITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING CONCERNING PROBLEMS FOR JAPAN'S DEFENSE POLICY. GENERAL PURSLEY COMMENTED THAT THE TOPIC HAD BEEN SELECTED NOT ONLY FOR THE MERIT OF DISCUSSING THE ISSUES INVOLVED, BUT ALSO TO ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT FOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP TO MOVE AWAY FROM BASE ISSUE.

2. AFTER SOME INITIAL FENCING, IN WHICH KUBO SUGGESTED THAT PAPERS READ BY US AT RECENT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DID NOT APPEAR TO TAKE FULLY INTO ACCOUNT IMPLICATIONS OF NIXON DOCTRINE RESPECTING US AVOIDANCE OF LAND WARS IN ASIA, DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON REMIFICATIONS OF NIXON DOCTRINE. US REPS GAVE PERSONAL VIEWS THAT DOCTRINE IS DURABLE AND THAT ITS BASIC ELEMENTS WILL CONTINUE INTO SUCCESSIVE US ADMINISTRATIONS. KUBO AND OKAWARA SAID THE JAPANESE AND OTHER ASIANS ARE CONCERNED THAT NIXON DOCTRINE MAY PRODUCE ACCELERATING REDUCTIONS AND WITHDRAWALS OF US MILITARY PRESENCE FROM ASIA. ADDRESSING THE "NEW ORDER" WHICH KUBO THOUGHT MIGHT MATERIALIZE IN ASIA DURING THE SEVENTIES IN THE WAKE OF THE VARIOUS DETENTES AND RAPPROCHEMENTS WHICH APPEAR TO BE TERMINATING THE COLD WAR, KUBO SAID THAT ASIAN COUNTRIES WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE CERTAIN US FORCES OF HIGH VISIBILITY AS EVIDENCE OF US CONTINUED INTENTION TO REMAIN INVOLVED IN SECURITY ISSUES IN ASIA. KUBO IDENTIFIED SUCH VISIBLE FORCES AS ELEMENTS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET AND A "MOBILE TASK FORCE" COMP

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